IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 32-42.

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Original) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having four side walls that are connected to each other to form an elongated configuration, the four side walls comprising a first side wall, a second side wall, a third side wall and a fourth side wall, with the first and third side walls being opposite and parallel to each other, and with the second and fourth side walls being opposite to each other;

wherein each side wall has a top edge, with the top edges of the side walls defining an open top for the shell;

wherein the first and third side walls are longer than the second and fourth side walls;

a first elongated lid portion having an inner edge, and a side edge hingedly coupled to the top edge of the first side wall;

a second elongated lid portion having an inner edge, and a side edge hingedly coupled to the top edge of the third side wall; and

wherein the inner edges of the lid portions are positioned side-by-side when the lid portions cover the open top of the shell.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, further including a frame that is secured to the top edges of the side walls, with the side edges of the lid portions hingedly coupled to the frame.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the frame is made from a different material as the lid portions.

15. (Original) The assembly of claim 13, wherein the frame is made of plastic.

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 15, wherein the lid portions are made of metal.

17. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the inner edges of the lid portions define a center line for the open top of the shell.

18. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein the first and second lid portions are aligned in the same plane as the first and third side walls, respectively, when the first and second lid portions are completely opened.

19. (Original) The assembly of claim 13:

wherein the frame defines a first elongated slot along the top edge of the first side wall and a second elongated slot along the top edge of the third side wall; and

wherein each lid portion has a sleeve provided along its side edge, with the sleeve of the first lid portion received inside the first elongated slot to hingedly couple the first lid portion to the top edge of the first side wall, and the sleeve of the second lid portion received inside the second elongated slot to hingedly couple the second lid portion to the top edge of the third side wall.

20. (Original) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having a linear top edge;

a frame that is secured to the linear top edge of the shell, the frame defining an elongated slot along the linear top edge; and

an elongated lid portion having a side edge, with a sleeve provided along the side edge and received inside the elongated slot to hingedly couple the lid portion to the linear top edge of the shell.

21. (Original) The assembly of claim 20, wherein the frame is made from a different material as the lid portion.

22. (Original) The assembly of claim 20, wherein the frame is made of plastic.

23. (Original) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the lid portion is made of metal.

24. (Original) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell having four side walls that are connected to each other to form an elongated configuration, the four side walls comprising a first side wall, a second side wall, a third side wall and a fourth side wall, with the first and third side walls being opposite and parallel to each other, and with the second and fourth side walls being opposite to each other;

wherein each side wall has a top edge, with the top edges of the side walls defining an open top for the shell;

wherein the first and third side walls are longer than the second and fourth side walls;

a first elongated lid portion having an enlarged inner edge, and a side edge hingedly coupled to the top edge of the first side wall;

a second elongated lid portion having an enlarged inner edge, and a side edge hingedly coupled to the top edge of the third side wall; and

wherein the inner edges of the lid portions are positioned side-by-side when the lid portions cover the open top of the shell.

25. (Original) The assembly of claim 24, further including a frame that is secured to the top edges of the side walls, with the side edges of the lid portions hingedly coupled to the frame.

26. (Original) The assembly of claim 25, wherein the frame is made from a different material as the lid portions.

27. (Original) The assembly of claim 25, wherein the frame is made of plastic.

28. (Original) The assembly of claim 27, wherein the lid portions are made of metal.

29. (Original) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the inner edges of the lid portions define a center line for the open top of the shell.

30. (Original) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the first and second lid portions are aligned in the same plane as the first and third side walls, respectively, when the first and second lid portions are completely opened.

31. (Original) The assembly of claim 25:

wherein the frame defines a first elongated slot along the top edge of the first side wall and a second elongated slot along the top edge of the third side wall; and

wherein each lid portion has a sleeve provided along its side edge, with the sleeve of the first lid portion received inside the first elongated slot to hingedly couple the first lid portion to the top edge of the first side wall, and the sleeve of the second lid portion received inside the second elongated slot to hingedly couple the second lid portion to the top edge of the third side wall.

32. (New) A trash can assembly, comprising:

a shell with a top end, a bottom end, and an enclosing wall;

an inner liner positioned substantially within the shell;

a base attached to the bottom end of the shell, the base having a toe-kick recess, the shell and the base being formed of different materials;

a pedal bar positioned at least partially within the base, at least a portion of the pedal bar extending into the toe-kick recess;

a lid having a first portion and a second portion, each of the first and second portions being approximately the same size and having approximately the same dimensions, each of the first and second portions being pivotally attached to an upper region of the trash can, and a region of minimum thickness of each of the first and second portions being substantially less than the maximum distance between the inner liner and the outside surface of the shell;

wherein each of the first and second portions are actuated by the pedal bar to move between a substantially closed position in which each of the first and second portions is predominantly horizontal, and to an opened position in which each of the first and second portions is predominantly vertical; and

wherein a motion dampening mechanism decreases the closing speed of the first and second portions.

33. (New) A storage container comprising:

a reservoir defined by a plurality of walls;

a lid assembly including first and second lid portions, both of the first and second lid portions being hingedly mounted relative to the reservoir;

a foot pedal mounted to the container and configured to be movable between a resting position and an actuated position;

a linkage assembly extending between the pedal to both of the first and second lid portions, the linkage assembly comprising at least a first link member arranged so as to move along a generally vertical path, the linkage assembly being configured to move the first link member generally vertically when the foot pedal is moved from the resting position to the actuated position; and

a dampening mechanism connected to the first link member so as to dampen a vertical movement of the first link member.

34. (New) The storage container of claim 33, further comprising at least a first spring configured to bias the foot pedal toward the resting position.

35. (New) The storage container of claim 33, wherein the linkage assembly comprises at least second and third link members, the second link member connecting the first link member to the first lid portion, the third link member connecting the first link member to the second lid portion.

36. (New) The storage container of claim 33, wherein the reservoir comprises a liner member and an outer wall assembly, with the dampener mechanism being disposed in a space between the liner member and the outer wall assembly.

37. (New) The storage container of claim 33, wherein the storage container includes at least four sides, wherein each of the first and second lid portions have about the same size and shape.

38. (New) The storage container of claim 33, wherein the linkage assembly comprises at least second and third link members, the second link member being having a lower end connected to the first link member and an upper end assembly arranged to contact the first lid portion, the third link member having a lower end connected to the first link member and an upper end assembly configured to contact the second lid portion.

39. (New) A storage container comprising:

a reservoir defined by a plurality of walls;

a lid assembly including at least a first lid and a second lid, both of the first and second lid portions being hingedly mounted relative to the reservoir;

a foot pedal mounted to the container and configured to be movable between a resting position and an actuated position;

a linkage assembly extending between the pedal to the first and second lid portions, the linkage assembly comprising at least first and second link members, the linkage assembly configured to move the first and second link members upwardly and generally vertically in response to a movement of the foot pedal from the resting position to the actuated position, the first and second link members having first and second upper ends, respectively, the first and second upper ends being positioned to push against at least a metal portion of the first and second lid members when the first and second link members move upwardly, so as to move the first and second lid members from closed positions toward open positions; and

at least a first plastic member disposed between the upper end of the first link member and the metal portion of the first lid member, the first plastic member configured to prevent metal-on-metal contact between the upper end of the first link member and the first lid member.

40. (New) The storage container of claim 39, further comprising a dampening mechanism configured to dampen movement of the first and second lid members.

41. (New) The storage container of claim 39, wherein the first and second lids are made of a metal material.

42. (New) The storage container of claim 41, wherein the first and second link members are made from a metal material.